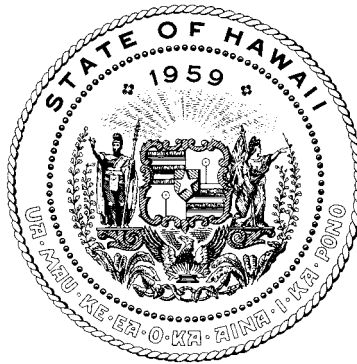


REPORT TO THE TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2005
HAWAII STATEWIDE TRAIL AND ACCESS SYSTEM
Known as Na Ala Hele



Prepared by:
THE STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
Na Ala Hele Trail and Access Program

In response to Section 198D-9(7), Hawaii Revised Statutes

Honolulu, Hawaii
December 2004

**REPORT TO THE TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
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PURPOSE

Chapter 198D, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), which established the Hawaii Trail and Access System, requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) under Section 198D-9(7), HRS, to submit an annual report on activities engaged in this Chapter. This report covers activities and revenue in Fiscal Year (FY) 03-04 and other specific activities from December 2003 to November 2004.

INTRODUCTION

Na Ala Hele (NAH), The Hawaii Statewide Trails and Access Program, was established through legislation in 1988. Section 198D-2, HRS, directs DLNR to plan, develop, acquire land or rights for public use of land, construct, and engage in coordination activities to implement a trail and access system. The program is administered through DLNR's Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW). This report covers activities implemented by DOFAW that are pursuant to Chapter 198D, HRS. Specifically, this report contains the following subjects:

- 1. Program & Annual Report Summary**
- 2. Funding**
- 3. Historic Trails**
- 4. Commercial Trail Tour Activity and Revenue**
- 5. Risk Assessment and Management**
- 6. Advisory Councils**
- 7. Statewide Trail and Access Activities**

PROGRAM & ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY

Trails and access roads are necessary management features that serve multiple functions:

- Facilitating search and rescue efforts
- Combating and controlling wildland fire as firebreaks and access ways
- Monitoring and removal of environmentally damaging plant and animal species
- Monitoring and restoration of native flora and fauna
- Conducting watershed resource management
- Experiencing and protecting cultural history through ancient and historic Hawaiian trails
- Recreational opportunities: hunting, hiking, bicycling, equestrian riding, off-road vehicle use
- Economic and ecotourism opportunities through guided commercial trail excursions

Primary goals of the program are to:

- Improve and maintain the conditions of all appropriate public trails and access roads to specific management standards and specifications, respond to the ancillary natural and cultural resource management issues associated with trail and access roads corridors, and manage multiple public and the increasing commercial recreational activities.

- Research, document, and when feasible, restore ancient and historic trails for managed public use.
- Engage in efforts to resolve specific public access disputes, and initiate planning and development efforts for trails or accesses that may be suitable for inclusion into NAH, comment on development that may affect trails and accesses, or provide NAH technical or developmental support to other organizations or agencies.

NAH Program administration and management are currently comprised of four subject areas:

- **Recreational trail and access road development and management** (on-the-ground management and public recreational use issues, federal grant administration, information dissemination)
- **Ancient and historic trail inventory, protection, and development** (abstracting of title, policy development and coordination with other DLNR divisions, cultural resource protection, responding to legal issues where trails affect private property owners).
- **Commercial trail and access road management** (processing and administering permit applications, invoices and payments from operators, commercial reservation system & website management and maintenance) investigating illegal tour operations.
- **Environmental risk management** (implementation of Act 82, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 03: development of environmental warning signage, evaluating dangerous environmental conditions on trails, developing risk management policy).

- **Management Challenges in Branches.**

Hawaii Branch: competing demands for development and historic trail reviews versus managing and developing recreational trail opportunities. Future staffing requirement for the Hawaii Branch include upgrading the existing Forestry and Wildlife Technician into a Trails and Access Specialist, and creating or re-describing a Forestry and Wildlife Worker position into another Technician position to assist the primary Trails and Access Specialist in managing what are essentially two separate trail programs.

Oahu Branch: staff vacancies have hindered Oahu Branch in maintenance of trails and management of the volunteer assistance program. The Forestry and Wildlife Technician oversees trail maintenance and the volunteer program. In addition, 2004 weather patterns significantly increased vegetation growth and erosion rates for Oahu trails, further exacerbating trail maintenance issues.

Maui Branch: off road vehicle use. Reconciling NAH's increased regulatory and management role with the recreational public's perception of a duty to increase multiple use trail opportunities, such as off-road vehicles, is also problematic and challenging, due to land tenure and resource protection issues. This is a growing issue on Maui due to the amount of off-road vehicle users.

Administrative Office: Shift from recreational to commercial uses. The Transient Accommodations Tax revenues via the Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA) and Act 250, SLH 2002, and increased commercial tour revenue are funding a larger portion of improvements, and staff NAH's operations. Revenue source require that NAH dedicate an increased share of time and resources to tourism and commercial activity to maintain trails used by these operators.

Positions & Funding:

There are 11 permanent NAH staff positions: Program Manager, Historic Trail Abstracter, four Trail and Access Specialists, four ancillary Forestry and Wildlife Technicians and one Forestry and Wildlife worker assigned to NAH. These positions are funded through a combination of General Funds and the State Fuel Tax (SFT) allocation. The portion of SFT transferred to staff salary (3.5 positions) was a result of several years of reoccurring funding restrictions. ***This legislative session, DLNR is requesting three temporary, budgeted General Laborer I positions for NAH funded by Act 250, SLH 2002, via the Transient Accommodations Tax (TAT).***

NAH Funding Source Table	
	FY03-04
NAH % of State Fuel Tax Revenue	\$239,538
Hawaii's Federal RTP Allocation	\$530,850
Commercial Trail Tour Activity Revenue	\$ 40,507
TAT- HTA Allocation	\$100,000
Donations, Sales, Investment Earnings	\$ 25,400
Total Funds	\$ 936, 295

- **Historic Trail Abstracts:** The Abstract Section of NAH provides technical support in locating and determining governmental jurisdiction to ancient or historic non-vehicular roads and trails throughout the State. Historic trail issues continue to get involved in litigious and complicated situations, requiring careful negotiations relating to development particularly on the Big Island, and to a lesser degree on Maui and Molokai. In FY03-04, NAH Abstract Staff worked 1,845 hours (\$30,036) on 38 abstracts, to determine title and/or public access for historic trails, old government roads, and lateral shoreline access routes.
- **Commercial Trail Tour Activity:** There are currently 36-permitted trail tour operators. 29 are Hawaii based and 7 are located on the Mainland. There are occasional issues associated with late payments, and vendors with competing and conflicting commercial interests, or that criticize the commercial program based on the illegal operations. ***The primary challenge to having a successful commercial trail tour program is the elimination of illegal tour operators.*** DLNR is working towards prosecution of the illegal operations via civil process – in addition to having violations be heard in criminal court, as a means of penalizing illicit trail tour operators. Due to land tenure and lack of commercially desirable NAH trails, commercial trail tour activity is low on Maui, compared to the rest of the State – even though non-guided trail tourism is high due to visitor trends. Staff spent 449 hours (\$8,920) administering and monitoring this activity.
- **Environmental Risk Assessment and Management:** Act 82, SLH 2003, provides greater legal protection to the State and Counties that install hazard-warning signs approved by the process established in Act 82, SLH 2003. NAH administration is a member of the Risk Assessment Working Group (RAWG) pursuant to Act 82, SLH 2003, and is preparing administrative Rules on the Design and Placement of Warning Signs. In FY03-04, NAH staff applied 179 hours (\$3,495) working on risk assessment activities.
- **NAH Trail and Access Advisory Councils:** The Advisory Councils (AC) meet with a frequency based upon the needs and issues of their particular islands. The Statewide AC meets at least once per calendar year to report on island activities, review the Recreational Trail Program (RTP) grant projects, and discuss policy and other administrative issues affecting the NAH Program.

- **Statewide Trail and Access Activities:** Various recreational trails and access roads managed by DOFAW are included and regulated under NAH. In addition, NAH administers trails on other state land and historic trails and negotiated access routes traversing private land. Currently, there are approximately 675 miles of DOFAW recreational and management trails and access roads, with direct management support and federal funds provided through NAH. Improvements and stewardship projects are conducted through staff, individual community volunteers, non-profit organizations, interns, and contracts.

2. FUNDING

State Fuel Tax (SFT) Allocation

0.3 percent of the SFT collected under Chapter 243, HRS, is allocated each fiscal year to the Special Land and Development Fund (Section 171-19, HRS) of DLNR. The allocation is for the purposes of management, maintenance, and development of NAH trails and trail accesses established under Chapter 198D, HRS. Legislation established a limit of \$250,000 that may be allocated to DLNR from SFT revenue. In FY03-04, \$239,538.00 was allocated to NAH for expenditure in FY05-06. 7% overhead: \$9,755, is used by the Department of Budget and Finance. 3.5 NAH positions are funded by SFT @ \$220,447.00, leaving only approximately \$19,000 of discretionary SFT funds for NAH operations.

Federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Allocation

The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA 21) authorizes RTP as a Federal-aid Highway Program, and is codified in 23 U.S.C. 206 (RTP replaced the National Recreational Trails Funding Program). DLNR, through NAH, is qualified by the Federal Highways Administration as eligible to receive Hawaii's allocation of RTP funds. Criteria for eligibility mandates that the states have trail councils that include representation by the motorized recreational vehicle constituency, which NAH established at its inception. RTP is a state-administered, federal-aid program, and provides funds to states for trails and trail-related projects that fulfill the goals of a State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. In utilizing RTP funds, the State must comply with the Assured Access to Funds requirement: a minimum of 30% of the funding must be used for motorized trail use, 30% for non-motorized trail use, and 40% for diversified (multiple) trail use. The current RTP establishes an 80/20 matching requirement. Due to the limited availability of operating funds from SFT, providing the State RTP match is challenging. DOFAW special and general funded labor, and a portion of the Natural Area Reserve Program fund, constitutes 100% of the state 20% matching requirement.

RTP represents the most significant trail-funding source. In 2004, NAH was allocated Hawaii's portion of the Federal FY03 RTP funds: \$530,850.

Transient Accommodation Tax Allocation via the Hawaii Tourism Authority

Act 250, SLH 2002, established the Transient Accommodation Tax (TAT) Trust Fund, and caps amount of TAT allocated to the Tourism Special Fund at \$63,292,000. It also requires the Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA) allocate \$1,000,000 in support for natural resources. Act 250, SLH 2002, also reallocates 5.3% of TAT from the Tourism Special Fund to the State General Fund and earmarks \$1,000,000 for State Parks Program, of which 10% (\$100,000) is allocated to NAH. ***Act 250, SLH 2002, is significant in that it acknowledges the relationship between tourism and its impact on recreational features under DLNR jurisdiction, and that revenue from TAT is appropriate to be used to defray the cost of managing State Parks, and NAH trails.***

There has been a gradual, but steady increase in interest by the visitor industry in ecotourism activities, as trails are an attractive venue for visitors. ***The market growth over the past several years illustrates the visiting consumer's increased interest in hiking.*** There are very compelling reasons to use TAT funds on improving the quality of maintenance on specific trails on these three islands:

- Improved maintenance enhances both visitor and resident safety and facilitates ease of hiking.
- Vegetation trimming in a manner that favors distribution of native plant species along with trail surface repairs, such as the installation of boardwalks and/or applying gravel in poorly drained or habitually wet trail sections, or the installation of amenities such as benches and interpretive signage, improves aesthetic quality of the trail experience. Reducing the quantity of non-native plant species and amount of soil erosion along a trail corridor, is a natural resource management goal that has direct ecotourism market applications.

The \$100,000 allocated to NAH is distributed between Kauai, Oahu, and Maui – locations with a high percentage of trails used by visitors, to fund 3 temporary General Laborer I (GL1) positions to improve the condition of trails frequented by visitors. Currently, there are two unbudgeted GLI positions on Kauai and Maui, with the third position currently under the Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit. NAH intends to convert this position into the third, budgeted GLI for FY 05-06.

3. HISTORIC TRAILS AND ABSTRACTS

Section 198D-3, HRS, requires that an inventory of trails and accesses shall be established, maintained, and amended as required. Abstracts of ancient and historic trails constitute virtually all of the inventory work currently being conducted. Over the past several years, NAH has identified several differing historic trail scenarios and potential responses to address the State's interest. These scenarios are determined by Chapters 6E, 171, 264, and 198D, HRS, and are specifically associated with trails and non-vehicular roads that are subject to the Highways Act of 1892. Section 264-1, HRS, contains the following provision: "(b) All trails, and other non-vehicular rights-of-way in the State declared to be public rights-of-way by the Highways Act of 1892, or opened, laid out, or built by the government or otherwise created or vested as non-vehicular rights-of-way at any time thereafter, or in the future, are declared to be public trails. A public trail is under the jurisdiction of the State Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) unless it was created by or dedicated to a particular county, in which case it shall be under the jurisdiction of that county." These historic trail scenarios require coordination, and agreement on procedure among DOFAW, DLNR's Land, and Historic Preservation Divisions.

The Abstract Section of NAH provides technical support in locating and determining governmental jurisdiction to historic roads and trails throughout the State. The abstract research is dictated by development applications, such as Conservations District Use applications, and discussion among the various island ACs and NAH staff, resulting in specific requests for information, and plays an integral role in assessing current and future options for developing and restoring trail and access road systems. Abstracts of title are accomplished through historical research of documents, maps, and other media, together with interpretation of applicable statutes and laws.

The NAH Abstract Section also assists the Department of the Attorney General (AG's) in identifying possible interest the State may claim in roads and/or trails situate within the boundaries of lands that are the subject of Quiet Title Actions or Land Court Applications. If ownership is confirmed, public access via these road or trail features bounded by private land is documented.

Affirmation of ownership provides future options for recreational development and/or access. NAH staff continues to discuss with National Park Service staff on methods to implement the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail. NAH submitted comments to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail.

The following table provides a statewide breakdown of NAH abstract of title requests that have been initiated since 1992. A total of 214 abstract requests have been initiated through the 4 DOFAW Branches to determine title and/or public access for ancient or historic trails, old government roads, and lateral shoreline access routes. Hawaii has the most significant need for abstract data, due to the abundance of historic trail features and growing development trends.

ABSTRACT LOCATION	FY03-04	TO DATE	STATE OWNED	PUBLIC ACCESS	OTHER OWNERSHIP
Kauai	0	20	8	8	4
Oahu	2	16	5	4	7
Maui	6	40	19	15	6
Hawaii	30	138	80	13	45
TOTAL	38	214	112	40	62

4. COMMERCIAL TRAIL TOUR ACTIVITY (CTTA) AND REVENUE

Act 106, SLH 1997, allows for user fees from commercial use of NAH trails and access routes to go directly into the Special Land and Development Fund. This provision affords the opportunity to defray the costs to NAH in the management, trail maintenance, and regulating and monitoring of the commercial trail tour operations. There is general consensus between NAH staff and the private sector, that it is in the commercial trail tour industry's best interest to protect trails and access roads used by the industry through some form of intervening regulation. Regulation via a permit is codified in Chapter 13-130, Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) for NAH.

A significant component is the method by which the commercial tour vendors reserve and utilize a limited number of commercial patron slots per trail and access road. This has been accomplished in a manner that meets the needs of the tour industry, and minimizes NAH staff time spent in managing the process. A permitting and internet scheduling method is in place to insure that commercial activities by multiple vendors do not exceed the daily capacities and/or number of groups established for CTTA trails and roads. The reservation system records the reservation, date, and calculates the fee. Glitches to the website must be responded to immediately, since permitted operators cannot make reservations if the site is down.

The fees have not changed since the CTTA program's inception and are assessed per unit and based upon the potential trail impact of the mode of transport:

Hike	Bike & Horse	Motorcycle	4WD (5)	4WD (8)	4WD (12)	4WD (15)
\$5.00	\$7.00	\$10.00	\$25.00	\$50.00	\$75.00	\$100.00

- Payments are required after reservations are made, and vendors receive monthly invoices for the total amount of patron slots reserved, less any cancellations due to inclement weather. NAH has determined that inclement weather, such as high precipitation, may reduce public safety and increase trail or access road impact. Therefore, the operators are encouraged, through a waiving of the fee when paying the invoice, not to use the feature during inclement weather.
- NAH staff continues to examine commercial tour operations to determine the long-term feasibility and impacts associated with allowing this activity. Managing this activity continues to be challenging, due to illegal tour operators. These operators do not follow reasonable group size restrictions, and their operations can impact on public hikers and have social impacts – resulting in a loss of enjoyment for public hikers. The illegal tour operators can undercut the authorized tour operators that pay all of the various government fees, taxes, etc. associated with business requirements, and therefore must charge a higher fee per patron. As compared to regulated and legitimate tour operators, the large group sizes associated with the illicit operators reduces the overall quality of an ecotourism experience. ***This may have negative impact on Hawaii's market reputation as an ecotourism destination. This problem is most acute on Oahu, because of the ability for unauthorized vendors to solicit the potential patron base of Waikiki, making illicit operations profitable. In addition, there are a few permitted operators on Oahu expressing dissatisfaction with the CTTA process, due to the continued presence of the illegal operators.***
- FY03-04, net revenue (20% of the total revenue is allocated to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs) from commercial fees was @ \$40,506, **\$25,236 less than in FY03**. Revenue decreased on Kauai due to the temporary loss of one vendor, and increased on Oahu due to the addition of Manoa Falls in the roster of commercial trail sites. Staff labor managing and monitoring this activity was 449 hours (\$8,870). As of November of 2004, NAH has issued permits to 36 commercial trail tour operators.

FY03-04 CTTA Revenue	
Kauai	\$11,114.00
Oahu	\$18,884.00
Maui	\$ 336.00
Hawaii	\$10,172.00
Total	\$40,506.00

5. ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSEMENT AND MANAGEMENT

In 2002, DLNR and the United States Forest Service (USFS) entered into an Interagency Agreement, to provide assistance in assessment and management of risk at various DLNR recreation sites – NAH and State Park trails. The USFS Risk Assessment Team (RAT) was instrumental in identifying the common statewide dangerous natural conditions, the warranted signage, and also developed the initial design that has been further modified by the Act 82, SLH 2003, RAWG. In 2004, NAH contracted the RAT return to Hawaii to specifically identify the location and placement of signs at trailheads and along trails relating to flashflood, falling rocks, dangerous cliffs, and submerged objects in swimming areas. Risk management and warning sign monitoring over time, will become a basic operating procedure of the NAH Program. (See the Act 82, SLH 2003, 2005 Report to the Legislature)

6. NAH ADVISORY COUNCILS

Advisory Council's (AC's) meet as staff and AC members determine is necessary based upon their respective island's trail and access issues. In FY03-04, AC's met as follows: **Hawaii – 11, Kauai – 0, Oahu - 5 Maui – 11, Molokai – 6 and Lanai – 7.** The range in frequency of meetings indicates the difference among islands that are engaged in more trail development and analysis versus a more static regulatory and management mode. For example, Maui is engaged in trail development due to the lack of public trails. The AC members are useful and engaged in assisting staff with trail development. On the Big Island, staff and the AC are continually responding to ancient and historic trail situations during land development phases. On Oahu, the AC does not meet as frequently, based on the Oahu program's basic trail maintenance and regulatory issues. On Kauai, the AC does not meet at all – there are virtually no issues generating the need for AC involvement at this point in time.

The agendas and minutes of the meetings are on file at DOFAW Branch offices. Many of the issues and subjects covered by AC's, are reflected in the following statewide trail and access projects. The Statewide NAH AC meets at least once a year, and is comprised of the chairpersons (or their representatives) of the 6 Island AC's and a representative of the off-road vehicle user group. The Statewide NAH AC meets annually to provide continuity of NAH implementation among the Island AC's, and to discuss and resolve issues that affect NAH statewide, such as sharing trail and access issues that are both statewide or island specific, and to discuss administrative and management issues, the RTP grant projects and other budgetary items.

7. STATEWIDE TRAIL AND ACCESS ACTIVITIES

Appropriate public trails managed by DOFAW are included as part of the NAH Trail System. In addition, NAH administers trails on other state lands and trails on private lands through memorandum of agreements. Currently, there are approximately 675 miles of trails and accesses that are managed by DOFAW/NAH. Primary NAH goals are to:

- Improve and maintain the conditions of all appropriate trails and access to the standards and specifications of NAH.
- Document and when feasible, develop historic trails for managed public access.
- Attempt to resolve various access and management disputes, and initiate planning and development efforts for trails or accesses that may be suitable for inclusion into NAH, or receive NAH technical or developmental support.

In FY03-04, DOFAW/NAH staff engaged in:

- 11,084 hours of labor on trail maintenance (\$166,453)
- 8,546 hours of labor (\$143,603) on access roads and/or diversified trails.

(These figures exclude certain DOFAW Wildlife program staff labor)

Branch staff on each island attempt to provide routine maintenance and service, ranging from at least once per year, to quarterly, based upon amount of public use, vegetation growth cycles, erosion damage, storms, and availability of volunteers.

DOFAW Trail and Access Road Table

Island	Trails	Mileage	Access Roads	Mileage
Kauai	20	108	12	72
Oahu	39	65	4	20
Maui (includes Lanai and Molokai)	22	71	54	157
Hawaii	16	65	15	118
TOTAL	97	309	85	367

The following is a status report for NAH administrative and island trail and access projects, planning efforts, and other management activities for FY 2004. The island reports contain descriptions of select trail and access activities that NAH has undertaken due to program, DOFAW or DLNR directives, or in response to public interest, land development or changes in ownership and access situations.

NAH Oahu Administration Activities

- Submitted the projects and obligation request for the 2004 Federal RTP funds (\$625,284) to the Federal Highways Administration for approval.
- Coordinated Phase 2 of the USFS RAT's analysis of trails for the placement of signs relating to specific dangerous natural conditions along DLNR trails.
- Continued to represent the DLNR Chairperson as a member of the RAWG pursuant to Act 82, SLH 2003. Coordinated public review and comment on the sign designs through the NAH Trail and Access Advisory Councils and the DLNR website, wrote the draft administrative rules for the Design and Placement of Warning signs, and circulated the draft rules for comments among the RAWG members. Drafted the Act 82, SLH 2003 Report to the Legislature.
- Continued to serve on the HTA Natural Resources Working Group (NRWG). Participated on a subcommittee of members of the NRWG and the HTA Cultural Resources Working Group to establish a Hawaii-based definition for ecotourism, and potential policy measures for HTA to consider in the development and promotion of eco and cultural tourism in Hawaii.

- DLNR Deputy and DOFAW staff continued to negotiate with private landowners to support NAH efforts on restoring critical public hunting and hiking access to the Poamoho Trail in the Ewa Forest Reserve on Oahu. The only access to the forest reserve and trail is across private property. Access was eliminated when the private landowner installed a gate at the entrance to a pineapple access road entrance that provided mauka vehicular access. Negotiations are closer to fruition, pending the joint approval of a written agreement, and the funding of a fenced access road corridor to the public land.
- Attended a rockfall training hosted by DLNR's Commission on Water Resource Management, and conducted by a geologist from the United States Geological Survey, (USGS).
- Coordinated with State Parks staff on methods to integrate respective website information relating to facilitating public access to DLNR trail information.
- Met with private landowners, NAH Hawaii Staff, and DLNR Deputy to clarify ownership of the Holualoa Trail on Hawaii. After further examination of facts, an earlier AG advice letter was amended. This information was included in a technical memorandum sent to staff and AC members, that clarified the State's position on ownership pursuant to application of Chapter 264, HRS.
This trail situation fostered a method by which the State may claim ownership that NAH had not encountered before – based on the “surrender” of a feature, rather than documenting its existence prior to the Highways Act of 1892.
- Met with University of Hawaii at Manoa law students and an environmental law professor to explain a student project that reviews specific statutes and administrative rules, and then develops a consistent policy on how DLNR responds to and processes information relating to ancient and historic trails. A written response is pending.
- Coordinated with other DOFAW Programs on the consolidation of their budgetary programs.
- Created two temporary General Labor positions for Kauai and Maui using the TAT funds.
- Coordinated the 2004 annual Statewide Trail and Access AC meeting.
- Assisted Oahu NAH in trail maintenance, by cutting overgrown exotic vegetation to prepare sections of the Honolulu Mauka Trail Complex for the 13th annual Tantalus Tropical Trek trail race.

Kauai Branch:

1. Volunteer Support:

- Continued the Kauai Adopt-A-Trail Program with the Kauai Sierra Club, Charlie Cobb-Adams, and the Kokee Resource Conservation Program totaling, over 774 hours of volunteer work.
- Awarded all individual volunteers with official “Kauai DOFAW Volunteer” T-Shirts.

2. AC Activity:

- Because of the lack of a consistent AC quorum, there were no scheduled meetings in 2004. The Kauai AC members were notified to input comments to NAH regarding issues via email and regular mail if issues arise. Katie Cassel of the Kokee Resource Conservation Program represented Kauai at the annual 2003 Hawaii Statewide AC Meeting.

3. **Special Events:**

- Assisted the County of Kauai Water Department in the second annual “Project Wet” to help educate the Islands fifth graders in water conservation and preservation of Hawaii unique ecosystem.
- Participated in the 2004 Kauai Weed Tour that was hosted by the University of Hawaii Tropical Agriculture Program. The Kauai NAH staff coordinated trail tours to participants to discuss invasive weed problems in Kauai’s Trails and Roadways.

4. **NAH Support to DOFAW Branch Programs and Issues:**

- Staff continued required first aid, CPR and fire fighting training.
- Staff participated in DLNR firefighting efforts on state forest reserve lands.
- Participated in NAH Core Group meeting.
- Responded to numerous public inquires regarding hiking in Hawaii.
- Assisted DLNR’s Kauai Natural Area Reserves System (NARS) with maintenance of the Kokee Field Station and Kalalau Rim Project.
- Staff was actively involved with the Kokee State Park Master Plan. Participated in all of the Kauai DLNR Task Force and Board of Land and Natural Resources meetings.
- Kauai NAH coordinated the 2004 Youth Conservation Corp, directly working with Pono Pacific to schedule work projects for fifteen youths for Kauai DOFAW projects. YCC maintained the Kalalau Rim out-planting site, did trail improvements on Kukui and Nounou Mountain East Trail, and worked with the DOFAW staff section on wildlife restorations and maintained cages for endangered seabirds.
- NAH staff assisted with Smokey Bear, and to spread his message about forest fire prevention at the Kauai County Farm Fair.
- Staff assisted with construction of fenced enclosures of native endangered plants under the guidance of NARS.
- Kauai NAH staff attended the California Nevada Hawaii (CNH) annual meeting held on Kauai, to discuss wildland forest fires issues.

5. **Trail and Access Management Issues:**

- Manage the CTTA Permit process. The commercial trail tours continues to be very active on Kauai with 9 hiking tours, 2 four-wheel drive tours, 3 equestrian tours, and a newly formed motorcycle tour. NAH continues to monitor trail usage on an annual basis.
- Working on a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for re-routing the Pihea Trail, that includes construction of a boardwalk that will connect with the Alakai Trail.
- Involved with the Kauai County in the development of the Kealia Bike/Pedestrian Trail.
- Coordinating with DLNR’s Engineering Division to draft plans to mitigate and schedule work for the reconstruction of public facilities to address the Americans with Disability Act (ADA).
- Worked with County of Kauai Department of Water to design for future access to Kealia Forest Reserve via the Piliamoo Road.

6. **Trail and Access Maintenance, Restoration, or Development:**

- Completed trash removal from Waimea Canyon and Waialae Camp sites.
- Maintained routine maintenance of 108 miles of trails, 72 miles of roads, 34 trail shelters and benches, 45 field gates, 11 composting toilets, 66 acres of arboreta.
- Installation and repairs to trail and cautionary signs.
- Installed over 20 tons of gravel for trail thread improvements to the Moalepe Trail.

- Installed over 1,400 tons of gravel and reconstructed portions of the Wailua Forest Management Road.
- Continued research on herbicide field trails in collaboration with the University of Hawaii Extension Service. Projects include the Nualolo Trail and Koaie Trail.
- Working with the newly hired DOFAW Invasive Species Technician, to control problem weeds that are entering the forest reserves via trailheads and roadways.

Oahu Branch:

1. **Volunteer Support:**

- Coordinated and supervised 531 volunteers totaling 2,126 hours of volunteer service on various trails and access improvement projects.
- Awarded outstanding volunteers with shirts, mugs and hats.
- Started monthly *Makiki Watershed Awareness Initiative* (WAI) volunteer workday, which now comprises six core volunteers who show up every month.
- Co-hosted Malama Hawaii's *Volunteer Service Network workshops*. The 3-day workshops were held at the Makiki Forestry Baseyard facility. This was the third set of workshops offered since 2002. The workshops focused on training volunteers to be volunteer leaders. As volunteer leaders, they in return, can extend supervision for supervisors during volunteer service trips.

2. **Trail and Access AC Activity:**

- Conducted five AC meetings.
- Two AC members retired this year. One represented the Sierra Club and one represented the Hawaii Trail and Mountain Club.
- Established two new members to the AC: one represents the Hawaii Ultra Running Team and one represents the four-wheel drive community.

3. **Major Accomplishments and Special Events:**

- Continued implementing Makiki WAI projects sponsored by a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency in 2003 for Ala Wai Watershed restoration projects, i.e., watershed restoration installation of a comprehensive watershed interpretive signs. The interpretive sign program is not yet completed, however; six of the total nine signs have been installed and have had great reviews. The signs focus on watershed dynamics, threats, history restoration and protection.
- Co-hosted a Tread Lightly "Tread Trainer" Workshop. The Workshop focused on training off-road enthusiasts how to be teachers of proper off-road riding ethics. The Workshop was held at the Oahu DOFAW's, Baseyard conference room. Six members of the off-road four-wheel drive group known as the Oahu 4 Wheelers attended the Workshop.
- Supervised Kaena Point clean up with members of the Oahu 4 Wheelers. The clean up consisted of cleaning up trash and bulky items illegally dumped at the point.
- Established Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC) forestry workline program. In the past, Oahu NAH had a prison inmate crew that was supervised by a guard. However, due to current budget cuts and lack of staff, the correctional center could no longer afford to send out a guard to supervise the crew. Therefore, NAH staff has resorted to picking up four inmates at a time, in order to keep-up with required trail maintenance. The workline program has been very successful.
- Escorted USFS RAT Team to potential recreation hazard features.

4. **NAH Support to DOFAW Branch Programs and Issues:**

- Helped organize and support required first aid, CPR and fire fighting training.
- Continued logistical support branch incidents and activities.
- Continued computer/office support and equipment inventory accountability support.

5. **Trail and Access Administration:**

- Participated in NAH Core Group meeting.
- Responded to more than 400 phone and 150 e-mail inquiries regarding hiking on Oahu.
- Assisted and advised DOFAW, NARS, State Parks, Land Division, City & County of Honolulu, and federal agencies in trail related issues and logistical support when requested.
- Issued two Commercial Trail Tour Activity Permits.
- Reviewed and recommended for approval, 8 film permits.
- Issued one Trail and Access Activity (T&AA) Permit for the Manoa Falls Trail.
- Issued two T&AA Permits to the Hawaii Ultra Running Team (HURT) for two separate events, one a 100-mile race on trails within the Honolulu Mauka Trail System that involved 60 runners from around the World, the second, a 10-mile race involving 200 runners.
- Maintained one part-time labor position through the University of Hawaii to help maintain trail clearing schedule and implement trail monitoring program.
- Established a Commercial Trail Tour Activity Advisory Committee made up of commercial tour vendors who use NAH trails on Oahu. The Committee was formed to better address vendor concerns as a whole.

6. **Trail and Access Maintenance, Restoration, or Development:**

- Continued maintenance of 42 trails and 4-wheel drive access roads, at approximately 92 total miles.
- Maintained 252 trail signs.
- Since August, the Oahu NAH Program has been without a trail technician. The Program is currently quickly falling behind on its standard trail maintenance schedule. The Trail Technician position oversees 90% of all the field operation for Oahu. The Oahu Trails and Access Specialist is currently hiring a technician assistant through the University of Hawaii and personally picking up inmates to address major hazards. The normal process for rehiring and filling a position has taken over four months. Therefore, many of the trails have not received their quarterly maintenance pass. Without a trail technician, the trails are quickly becoming overgrown and possibly dangerous. The Oahu Program has been resourceful in finding inexpensive ways to help maintain and restore trails; i.e., interns, inmates, and volunteers. However, without proper supervision, this inexpensive labor source may prove to be counterproductive interims of quality control and worker safety. This combined with a noticeable increase in public trail use, has justified a need for more trained and experienced staff.

Hawaii Branch:

1. **Volunteer Support:**

- Supervised approximately 2,400 hours of volunteer trail service projects; which included construction, maintenance, location, reconstruction, monitoring as well as mapping and reconnaissance.

2. **AC Activity:**
 - A total of 11 public meetings were held throughout the Big Island.
 - Worked with 11 landowners and developers, and participated on numerous field trips relating to trail identification, realignment, protection, construction, and reconstruction advice.
 - Worked on identifying the location of the Old Cart Road within the Hokulia Development in Kona. Work still pending discussions with DLNR's Historic Preservation Division and Kuleana residents for the final recommended location.
 - Successfully resolved public access and ranch operation issues for the Ainapo-Menzies Trail traveling through Kapapala Ranch.
 - Hours of use and locked gate combination procedures are being monitored.
 - Revised and added more guidelines for the treatment of historic trails.
 - Worked on NAH Management Plan that needed to be revisited with the incorporation of new issues like risk management, commercial use, ADA compliance, and meeting the requirements posed by cultural and historical concerns.
 - Reviewed County of Hawaii Planning Department Proposed Rule 21, concerning public access usage on lands that have been granted in fee or by easement to the County of Hawaii.
3. **Special Events:**
 - The National Park Service has completed public meetings seeking input for developing management alternatives for the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail. A draft management plan is now being written and scheduled for review next fall.
 - The annual Mauna Kea 2004 Motorcycle Event, sponsored by the Rock Island Riders Association, took place in January with a large turnout of riders.
 - Staff attended a National Trails Conference in Reno, Nevada.
4. **NAH Support to DOFAW Branch Programs and Issues:**
 - Staff assisted with fire suppression activities in the Puu Waawaa Game Management Area.
 - Reconstructed an access road in Kapapala.
 - Installing a composting bathroom facility at the Puu Oo Saddle House.
 - Staff attended fire fighting skills refresher courses.
 - Resolving motorcycle and bird hunting use conflicts on Mauna Kea.
5. **Trail and Access Management Issues:**
 - Researched and confirmed a trespass violation on the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail.
 - Administered 8 commercial tour permits.
 - 4-wheel drive trespass on the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail.
 - Resolving littering problems in remote Waimanu Valley Campground.
6. **Trail and Access Maintenance, Restoration, or Development:**
 - Installing new signs along trails and replacing old and vandalized signs.
 - Nine miles of the Muliwai Trail and Waimanu Valley Campground were closed in March 04, due to a storm that caused wind and flood damage to the facilities.

- Worked with DOFAW Field Crews and volunteers to develop, maintain, and reconstruct trails, which include Muliwai, Ala Kahakai, Pololu, Onomea, Puu Huluhulu, Kaumana, and Puu Oo, Ainapo, and the Kiholo-Huehue Trails, as well as maintenance of campsites, campgrounds, composting toilet units, and trash pickup and removal.
- Constructed an additional section of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail at Puakea Bay and will be installing signs, recommend route for program management, and information put on the web for public use.
- Constructed the Keauhou Trail realignment through the Keauhou Resort Development.
- Developed the Upper Waiakea All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) and Dirt Bike Park. Volunteers from the ATV Riders of Hawaii aided with the installation of signs, route location, and maintenance of the 14-mile trail system.

Maui Branch (Includes Lanai and Molokai:

1. **Volunteer Support:**

- Coordinated and supervised trail service work of 118 individual volunteers for a total of 2,384 hours on various trails and access projects.
- Awarded outstanding volunteers with plaques and an appreciation party for all volunteers.

2. **AC Activity:**

- Maintained connection to council and filled all vacancies.
- Participated in 11 Maui AC meetings.

3. **Special Events:**

- Participated in Pukalani Starbuck's Grand Opening Celebration, and received donation from Starbucks.
- Participated in the County of Maui's Planning Department's three-day workshop on long-range planning.
- Participated in the USGS workshop on Rock/Slope Susceptibility Evaluation.

4. **NAH Support to DOFAW Branch Programs and Issues:**

- Staff continued required first aid, CPR, and firefighting training.
- Staff participated in DLNR firefighting efforts on state forest reserve lands.
- Participated in NAH Core Group meeting.
- Responded to numerous public inquires regarding hiking in Hawaii.
- Participated in DLNR Family Meeting.
- Assisted and advised DOFAW, NARS, State Parks, Land Division, Maui County, and federal agencies in trail related issues and logistical support when requested.
- Participated in Greenway's Maui public meetings.
- Participated in Haleakala Summit/Skyline Trail Assessment consultations.
- Organized and participated in DOFAW's use of Americore and YCC participants.
- Organized material fill and road widening project for Keanae Arboretum with private contractor.
- Began negotiations with Twin Fall's landowner to secure access to East Maui Irrigation (EMI) lands.

5. **Trail and Access Management Issues:**

- Continued monitoring and management of CTTA Permit process.
- Continued monitoring and managing with the assistance of DLNR's Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE), a personal guide identification number for commercial tour operators. This is for safety precautions, and to insure only legal operators are utilizing NAH trails.
- Continued monitoring trail bed stability, non-native plant invasion, and the condition of archaeological resources on the Mamane, Waihee Ridge, and Old Lahaina Pali Trails, utilizing a photo-point management system.
- Completed Tri-Isle Resource Conservation & Development grant for 5 interpretive signs for the Ohai Loop Trail.
- Continued mitigation efforts of the Kahakapao Loop Trail by re-routing two 4-wheel drive roads in the Makawao Forest Reserve.
- Participated in the Keoneoio-Kanaloa Working Group Meetings.
- Continued to investigate the possibility of developing the Old Haleakala Bridal Trail (Kalialinui).
- Continued working with Maui Land and Pineapple Co. to complete the necessary improvements to the ADA parking at the Mokuleia Stairway.
- Completed Final EA and FONSI to create the Ohai Trail and Over Look within the Kahakuloa Forest Reserve.

6. **Trail and Access Maintenance, Restoration, or Development:**

- Maintained a fence enclosure for Sesbania tomentosa, Ohai, with the help of DOFAW, the Maui AC, the Native Plant Society, and NAH volunteers.
- Repaired trails in the Waianapanapa State Park (Ke Ala Loa O Maui, King's Trail) damaged by high surf event.
- Worked with International Mountain Biking Association trail specialist designing the Kahakapao Loop Trail gulch crossings.
- Continued propagation effort of native species within the Ohai fence enclosure.
- Continued maintenance of 150 feet of stepped walkway with handrails and scenic lookout for the mobility impaired at Mokuleia Bay in Napili, for public access to the shoreline.
- Continued to reconstruct the Upper Waiakoa Trail with volunteer labor within state-owned lands of the Kula Forest Reserve.
- Worked with DOFAW Field Crews and volunteers to maintain in the Kula, West Maui, Koolau, and Waihou Springs Forest Reserves, and on the Old Lahaina Pali Trail, a total of 42 miles of recreational trails.
- Continued planning and implementing the full development of the Waikamoi Ridge Trail, to accommodate 2-lane foot traffic with an imported hardened surface and boardwalk with the use of volunteer labor.
- Continued planning and implementing a recycled rubber matting design to be installed on the Waiakoa Loop Trail and the Mamane Trail, to maintain tread stability damaged by bicycle use with the use of volunteer labor.
- Identified and mapped portions of the historic Piilani Trail (King's Highway) in Kalepa and Lelekea.
- Maintained plant identification signs in Keanae Arboretum Walk.
- Continue maintenance efforts on the Waipoli Road in the Kula Forest Reserve.

Molokai:

1. Volunteer Support:

- 17 volunteers contributed 72 hours of labor to install interpretive signs along the Maunahui Road.

2. Advisory Council Activities:

- Maintained connection to the Molokai AC and filled vacant seats.
- Participated in 6 Molokai AC meetings.

3. Special Events:

- Conducted hiking event for National Trails Day.

4. NAH Support to DOFAW Branch Programs and Issues:

- Continued re-negotiations with the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands for the license agreement of the Maunahui/Makakupaia Road.
- Continued re-negotiations with Molokai Ranch, Ltd. for the Memorandum of Agreement of the Maunahui Road.

5. Trail and Access Management Issues:

- Continued researching possible areas for expansion of NAH trail inventory.
- Assisted with the ADA barrier removal contract for the Waikolu Lookout and Campsite

6. Trail and Access Maintenance, Restoration, or Development:

- Continued improvements to the Waikolu Lookout and Campsite by reconstruction of overlook facilities, clearing rubble and debris from the campsite area, and construction of a fence utilizing recycled materials. A covered pavilion, rest room facilities, and picnic tables are currently being replaced.

Lanai:

1. Volunteer Support:

- 18 volunteers contributed 216 hours of trail maintenance work

2. Advisory Council Activity:

- Maintained connection to the Lanai AC.
- Participated in 7 Lanai AC meetings.

3. Special Events:

- Conducted a National Trails Day and Year of the Hawaiian Forest hike.

4. NAH Support to DOFAW Branch Programs and Issues:

- Supported the maintenance of hunter access roads via RTP funds

5. Trail and Access Management Issues:

- Began negotiations with the Lanai Company to enforce the Memorandum of Agreement for the Lanai Fisherman's Trail.

6. Trail and Access Maintenance, Restoration, or Development:

- Maintained Lanai Fisherman's Trail.
- Monitored and visited historic trails and sites.